THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): The Justice Mukherjee Commission has not yet submitted its report. Its term has been extended upto 14.11.2003.

Identity Cards to citizens

1105. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 1216 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7th March, 2001 and state:

(a) the details of the scheme finalized target set and progress made on the preparation of an inventory of citizens as well as issuing identity cards to the citizens and non-citizens resident in the country; and

(b) the present status of implementation of issuing Work Permit to the non-citizens?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SWAMI CHINMAYANAND): (a) Since creating a database of the entire population of the country is a gigantic task, which requires in-depth examination of all the relevant issues, it has been decided by the Government to undertake a Pilot Project on an experimental basis. The Pilot Project has since been initiated in April, 2003 covering a few sub-districts in the selected districts of 13 States and Union Territories. The main scheme will be launched after taking into account experience and lessons drawn from the Pilot Project.

(b) The Group of Ministers, in their Report on 'Reforming the National Security System', has recommended introduction of a 'Work Permit for Foreigners' scheme as a measures to curb illegal migration, to begin with for Bangladesh and Myanmar nationals; Discussions have been held with Government of Bangladesh in this regard. However, a scheme is yet to be finalized.

Purulia arms-drop case

1106. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to free Peter Bleach, the key accused in Purulia arms drop case;

(b) whether it is also a fact that British intelligence had passed on prior information to Government of India about plans of Kim Davy to drop arms at Purulia; and

(c) whether Government of India passed the information to Government of West Bengal in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Mercy Petitions on behalf of Peter Bleach seeking remission of jail sentence under article 72 of the Constitution have been rejected.

(b) and (c) Some intelligence information was received about the possibility of arms and ammunition being airdropped or unloaded at an abandoned airfield in Dhanbad area of Bihar for an insurgent group of that area. The Government of Bihar and West Bengal were sensitized in this regard.

Remission of sentence to the accused in Purulia arms-drop case

1107. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has committed to British Government on remission of life sentence on Peter Bleach, accused in the Purulia arms-drop case, through Presidential clemency;

(b) whether the British Prime Minister was given an assurance to this effect by the Indian Deputy Prime Minister on a recent visit to UK; and

(c) how far India has been successful in using political/diplomatic leverage in securing extradition of fugitives wanted in India but now sheltered in foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The British Government has made a request but no assurance has been given in regard to Peter Bleach's release.